National Highways in North-Eastern Region

1118. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 731K of National Highway Project covering National Highway Nos. 31, 31-C, 36, 37 and 54 starting from West Bengal at Srirampur and joining Guwahati, Nogaon and Silchar in Assam have been taken up under East-West Corridor of N.H.D.P.;

(b) if so, whether the work has started on this project and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds that have been allotted for the project; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed and made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present contracts of the estimated cost of about Rs. 4160.00 crore are under implementation from West Bengal/Assam border to Silchar section of East-West Corridor.

(d) The entire East-West Corridor is targeted for completion by December, 2008.

Increase in road accidents

1119. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRASNPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road accidents in the country are on the rise during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of drivers given training under Administering Refresher Training to heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector and setting up of Training Institute of Driving and Research to minimize road accidents in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for these two schemes since their inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As

per information available from State Governments, the road accidents during the years 2001 to 2003 were as under:—

Year	Number of Accident
2001	405637
2002	407497
2003	406726

(b) and (c) The scheme "Administering Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers in Un-organized Sector" has been in operation since 1997-98. A statement showing state-wise number of drivers trained, amount sanctioned since the inception of scheme *i.e.* 1997-98 is annexed (*See below*).

The Central Assistance is sanctioned to various States under the scheme called "Setting up of a Training Institute on Driving & Research". Since inception of this scheme, *i.e.* from 2002-03, the financial assistance has been sanctioned to eight States which are: Assam (Rs. 394 lakh), Karnataka (Rs. 269 lakh), West Bengal (Rs. 328 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 400 lakh), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 181 lakh), Kerala (Rs. 299 lakh), Delhi (Rs. 325 lakh) and Uttaranchal (Rs. 325 lakh).

Statement

State-wise number of drivers trained and amount sanctioned

Sl. No.	States	No. of Drivers trained	Amount sanctioned *(Rs. in lakhs)*
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	38710	265.10
2	Assam	500	3.55
3	Delhi	61853	414.59
4	Goa	500	3.55
5	Gujarat	2500	17.73
6	Kerala	1150	8.14
7	Maharashtra	25750	182.20
8	MP	250	1.78

1	2	3	4
9	Orissa	1250	8.85
10	Punjab	750	5.32
11	Rajasthan	250	1.77
12	Sikkim	1450	10.27
13	Tamil Nadu	20750	146.95
14	UP	750	5.32
15	Uttaranchal	750	5.32
16	West Bengal	7400	49.70
	TOTAL:	164563	1130.14

Construction of new roads and over-bridges in Kerala

1120. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of construction of roads and over-bridges are ongoing in Kerala and whether any proposal of the re-imbursement of the cost of construction has been pending with Government for sanction;

(b) whether any proposal seeking santion for the construction of new roads and over-bridges in Kerala stands pending; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. As regards National Highways, 47 improvement works including one road over bridge are presently in progress in Kerala. The system of reimbursement of the cost of construction to the State Government has already been replaced with Direct Payment Procedure, wherein the payment is made by the Ministry directly to the construction agency. However, no such proposal is pending with the Ministry at present.

(b) and (c) No proposal for the construction of new roads is pending at present. However, one proposal for construction of approaches to road over-bridge at Padanacad (km 89/965-91/300) on NH-17 amounting to